

# PHILOSOPHY OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

## Theological Foundations

Education is, in its simplest form, the recognition of who God is and our relationship to Him. With that being said, we should seek to find our role as it contributes to reconciling the world. By doing so, we will find meaning and direction in life.

**What happened at Creation?** When God created the world, all things were good and everything was in its proper place. The world He created was complete and whole. Our first parents, who were created in God's own image, were given dominion over all the earth.

**What happened because of the Fall?** Our first parents were not content with God's provision to work in the Garden of Eden. Because of that, they chose to find meaning outside God's design. After the Fall, our relationship with God, ourselves, each other, and the earth was distorted by sin. The Fall has had profound implications for all of life including the realm of education. Our pursuit of truth, motives for seeking knowledge, and interpretations of people and events are clouded by sin. Another result of the fall is our bent toward individualism. We were not created to be alone or to live unto ourselves. Providence Christian Academy (PCA) provides an environment where students are loved and encouraged to find their gifts and talents and utilize them to the fullest.

**What does Christ's Redemption mean for us?** Thankfully, our rebellion and ultimate powerlessness was not the last part of God's plan. Jesus Christ came to earth as God incarnate. In Him, all truth, beauty, goodness, and justice are found. Our relationships with God, ourselves, each other, and the earth are redeemed through faith in Christ's Resurrection. This is precisely why PCA orients its entire educational program around the person of Christ. We pursue learning, acknowledging that in Him all things hold together, even things like justice and mercy. As Christ followers, we are invited to be a part of the redemption of this world through the power of the Holy Spirit. We are invited to seek justice, love our neighbor, care for those in need, and extend His kingdom.

**What does God's promise of restoration look like now?** The education we strive to live out at PCA is rooted in the idea that we can and will only find contentment and fulfillment when we are "giving our life away." He created us with unique abilities, passions, and experiences to be part of this process. When we put our gifts and talents toward benefiting

others, we find a more meaningful life. God's relationship to us is a powerful reminder of how we ought to go about education.

## **The PCA Vision for Christian Education**

**What does a distinctly Christian education offer?** PCA exists to glorify, enjoy, and serve God through learning. We believe that education is the pursuit of Truth, beauty, goodness, and justice, all of which is perfected in the identity and work of Christ. Scripture shows that God created human beings with purpose. The Biblical narrative reveals that humans were created to worship, work, and enjoy God and His Creation. Part of the wonder of creation is that God uniquely created us with differing abilities and desires as well as various experiences. Through God's continued revelation and work of the Holy Spirit, we gain a glimpse of how He might utilize the particularities of humanity to help carry out His good work. This is the very reason why PCA exists as a Christian learning community. To this end, education at PCA will prompt us to discover who God is, who we are in relationship to Him, and how He created us to serve in His world. We believe that learning for this purpose provides enjoyment and enables us to carry out our vocation with confidence and meaning.

**Why would students want to participate in an education like this?** We believe that human beings naturally wonder about the purpose and connectedness between themselves and God's world. Anyone who has spent time with toddlers ought to recognize this desire in the incessant "why" questioning. Moreover, the most learned minds throughout history have boldly asked "why." Educating ourselves, then, is a way of honoring our natural inclinations by trying to find unity in the diversity of God's world.

**What does the name Providence mean?** The word Providence describes God's care of His creation. He governs His creation with complete and absolute control as a loving father; all things for His glory and good. With that being said, a proper understanding of God's Providence changes how we experience life; It changes how we treat one another, It gives us hope as we grieve, and provides peace during chaos.

**How does the PCA learning community view Truth?** As a Christian learning community, the pursuit of Truth starts by acknowledging what Jesus said about Himself. He proclaimed "I am the way, the truth, and the life (Jn 14:6)" and invited people to follow Him during His

earthly ministry. Scripture tells us that “All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made (Col 1:16).” Christians embrace the study of diverse subjects such as literature, biology, mathematics, politics, astronomy, and how Truth impacts these disciplines. A proper understanding of Truth allows us to not only see the world as it is but also helps us find our role in it.